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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,911	07/05/2003	Alexander Medvinsky	018926-010400US	4648
37490	7590	01/06/2005		
EXAMINER				
HOFFMAN, BRANDON S				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2136				

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/613,911	MEDVINSKY, ALEXANDER	
	Examiner Brandon Hoffman	Art Unit 2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 2-10 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification is objected to because:

- All references to figure 1A should be to figure 1.
- All references to figure 1B should be to figure 3.

Alternatively, the drawings can be amended to reflect the numbering throughout the specification.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 2-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- Claim 2 is claiming dependence on claim 2; examiner assumes the dependency is upon claim 1.
- Claims 7 and 8 are missing the ending period (.).
- Claim 8 is missing the “and” between the second and third limitation.
- Claims 3-6, 9, and 10 either depend directly from claim 2 or from a different claim that depends from claim 2, therefore they inherit its deficiencies.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2136

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Parks et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0233553).

Regarding claims 11-13, Parks et al. teaches an apparatus/computer-readable medium for providing a secure time signal to a time requestor over a digital network, the apparatus comprising:

- A process for accepting a ticket from the time requestor to request a secure time signal (page 4, paragraph 0039 and 0040); and
- A process for providing a secure time signal to the time requestor (page 4, paragraph 0042-0048).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parks et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0233553) in view of Sirbu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,809,144).

Regarding claim 1, Parks et al. teaches a method for providing a secure time signal from a time source to a time requestor over a digital network, the method comprising using an information object to request the secure time signal (page 4, paragraph 0039 and 0040) wherein the information object includes an identification of the requestor and a session key for transferring the secure time signal (page 4, paragraph 0039, this paragraph shows how an identification of the requestor is found based on the signed messages and/or certificates).

Parks et al. does not teach wherein the information object includes a session key for transferring the secure time signal.

Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the information object includes a session key for transferring the secure time signal (col. 12, lines 45-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine wherein the information object includes a session key for transferring the secure time signal, as taught by Sirbu et al. with the apparatus/medium of Parks et al. It would have been obvious for such modifications

because session keys are more suited in a case where a time object is only required sporadically (once every minute, hour, day, etc.); whereby a single set of keys is used to obtain the time object, and once obtained, the keys can be destroyed. This prevents an attacker from learning the key through multiple uses, which would then allow the attacker to change the time and a digital rights content.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the information object includes a ticket (see col. 12, lines 45-54 of Sirbu et al.).

Regarding claims 3-5, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the ticket is obtained from a key distribution center, from an authentication server, or from a ticket-granting-server (see col. 12, lines 45-54 of Sirbu et al.).

Regarding claim 6, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches further comprising:

- Associating a request for a secure time signal with the ticket (see col. 10, lines 12-16 of Sirbu et al.);
- Transferring the ticket with the request to a secure time server (see col. 10, lines 4-16 of Sirbu et al.); and
- Receiving a secure time signal from the secure time server (see page 4, paragraph 0042 through page 4, paragraph 0048 of Parks et al.).

Regarding claim 7, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the request includes a request message, the method further comprising:

- Generating a nonce to be included in the request message (see col. 10, lines 4-7 of Sirbu et al.);
- Including a service ticket for the secure time server in the request message (see col. 10, lines 12-16 of Sirbu et al.); and
- Including a keyed checksum over the request message (see col. 10, lines 4-7 of Sirbu et al.).

Regarding claim 8, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the secure time signal includes a reply message, the method further comprising:

- Including a secure time signal (see page 4, paragraph 0042-0048 of Parks et al.);
- Including a nonce copied from the client request (see col. 14, lines 58-67 of Sirbu et al.); and
- Including a keyed checksum over the reply message (see col. 14, lines 58-67 of Sirbu et al.).

Regarding claim 9, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches wherein the step of receiving a secure time signal includes the following substeps:

- Matching a nonce in the received message with the corresponding nonce in the sent message (see col. 15, lines 1-9 of Sirbu et al.); and

- Confirming a keyed checksum (see col. 15, lines 1-9 of Sirbu et al.).

Regarding claim 10, the combination of Parks et al. in view of Sirbu et al. teaches further comprising using the secure time signal to update a clock value (see page 3, paragraph 0034 of Parks et al.).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 571-272-3863. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon Hoffman
BH

B. Hoffman
EXAMINER
PRIMARY